

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 1 and cancel claims 2-12 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Applicants also add claims 13-15 to address other aspects of present invention. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1 and 13-15 will be pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,775,244 to Hattig ("Hattig").¹ Applicants respectfully traverse the Section 102(e) rejection.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hattig. Because claims 2-12 have been canceled, the Section 102(e) rejection of claims 2-12 is moot.

In order to support a rejection based on anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, each and every element of the claim in issue must be found, either expressly described or under principles of inherency, in a single prior art reference. Further, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim." See M.P.E.P. § 2131, quoting Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1126, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a combination including, for example, "a detection section configured to detect a change caused in either the number detected . . . or the information collected . . . ; a set membership assignment section configured

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

to assign . . . a set membership to each equipment connected to the second network, the set membership being valid when virtual connection on the first network is established; [and] an assignment section configured to . . . assign the identification information to the respective equipment connected to the second network, in accordance with the set membership.”² Hattig fails to disclose at least these features of amended claim 1.

Hattig discloses “a method for use on a bus that supports broadcast discovery. According to the method, identification information is received from a device on the bus and discovery information is obtained from the device using the identification information. The discovery information is then broadcast on the bus.” Hattig, column 1, lines 25-30. “A discovery device stores the node ID from each self-ID packet until the hardware initialization is done. Then, the discovery device interrogates other devices on the bus to obtain their discovery information.” Hattig, column 2, lines 38-41, emphasis added.

Further, in Hattig, “[b]ridge 21 connects the BROADCAST CHANNELS of the 1394 buses and a corresponding mechanism on each non-1394 bus to enable advertise packets to be broadcast over the entire network.” Id., column 2, lines 62-65, emphasis added. Thus, Hattig's bridge 21 simply connects all buses together, i.e., 1394 buses and non-1394 buses, and the discovery information is used to discover devices on all the buses. Moreover, Hattig is silent as to any virtual connection for devices on either 1394 buses or non-1394 buses. Therefore, Hattig's teaching of direct discovery using discovery information over both 1394 buses and non-1394 buses does not constitute “a

² Support for amended claim 1 may be found at, for example, page 13, line 11 to page 14, line 1, and Fig. 4 of the specification.

detection section configured to detect a change caused in either the number detected . . . or the information collected . . . ; a set membership assignment section configured to assign . . . a set membership to each equipment connected to the second network, the set membership being valid when virtual connection on the first network is established; [and] an assignment section configured to . . . assign the identification information to the respective equipment connected to the second network, in accordance with the set membership,” as recited in amended claim 1 (emphasis added).

Therefore, Hattig fails to disclose each and every element of amended claim 1. Hattig thus cannot anticipate amended claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 102(e) rejection of amended claim 1.

Regarding the new claims

Applicants have added claims 13-15 to address other aspects of the present invention. Support for new claims 13-15 may be found at, for example, pages 13-16 of the specification. Because claim 13 depends from allowable amended claim 1, claim 13 is also allowable. Further, new independent claim 14, while of different scope, includes similar recitations to those of amended claim 1. Claim 14 and its dependent claim 15 are therefore also allowable for at least the same reasons stated above with respect to amended claim 1.

Conclusion

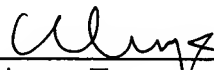
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 17, 2007

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